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Marine Fisheries Advisory

WHITE SHARK UPDATE 1:00 P.M.

Just before 10:00 a.m. this morning, scientists with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) attached a float to the white shark located in the channel off Naushon Island known as the Southwest Gutter. This was done so that researchers could see the shark at all times during the attempt by researchers to get the white shark to leave the shallow waters of the channel. At about 10:00 a.m., *Marine Fisheries* staff and experienced Cape Cod commercial weir fishermen set weir netting across the channel about halfway down the Southwest Gutter, with the hope that this would break the shark's pattern of swimming up and down the entire inlet. Sharks generally avoid weir netting and will turn around if they come into contact with the nets. For the safety of the shark, the netting that is being employed is older one-inch nylon mesh that should break easily in the event that the shark decides to swim through it. *Marine Fisheries* is also employing the use of special prods known as shark shields (more information at <http://www.sharkshield.com>), which produce electric current in the water designed to keep sharks away from a specific spot, in conjunction with the netting.

Shortly after the first weir was set, the white shark brushed up against the netting while swimming in its regular circular pattern and immediately turned around, as researchers and the fishermen had hoped. At 12:30 p.m. today, the crew of scientists and fishermen set a second weir about two thirds of the way down in the channel, about 175 yards from the opening to the sea.

As the shark moves closer to the expected egress point near the southwest point of Monohansett Island, fishermen and scientists plan to place a third set of the weir netting even closer to the egress point, hoping to coax the animal out of the channel into open water. Officials expect to do this later this afternoon and hope this will result in the shark safely leaving the shallow waters off Naushon Island.

Officials wish to remind media and the public of the need for strict adherence to the safety zone established by *Marine Fisheries* Director Diodati and the U.S. Coast Guard for the safety of both the shark and people. The Coast Guard and the Massachusetts Environmental Police are on scene enforcing access restrictions in the vicinity.